

The Taunton Talks

What are the Taunton Talks?

Searching for Truth

Oxford students generally put in the hours and the terms are intense. Besides the dangers of burn-out from overwork, there may be a sense of frustration that having to focus solely on one discipline means there is little time to range more widely and explore other fields of knowledge.

There may also be a feeling of isolation or even rejection on account of a prevailing atmosphere that does not allow for open discussion on issues where debate has been closed down.

Where does this leave the student who wishes, in the words of John Henry Newman, to be 'properly trained and formed to have a connected view or grasp of things'?



Saturdays in term-time
at Grandpont House, Oxford

Talk starts at noon
Discussion from 12:45-13:30
Optional buffet lunch at 13:30

The buffet lunch costs £5, and the number of lunch guests is restricted to 12; please contact Alex Norris at alexander.norris@sjc.ox.ac.uk to be added to the mailing list and to book a place at lunch.



The Taunton talks are intended to appeal to students who wish to engage in serious thinking beyond the confines of the tutorial and are motivated by the pursuit of truth.

They touch on pressing topics of the day as well as on perennial questions about the world and how to lead the good life, providing a forum for robust discussion in an informal setting where these topics can be dealt with honestly and deeply. The talks are aimed at bringing together undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Oxford to foster an atmosphere of open discussion and interdisciplinary learning.

Schedule Michaelmas 2023

Week 2 – 21 October

**'The Mathematics of Harmony and Proportion:
A Cosmic Pattern for a Culture of Beauty'**

Professor David Clayton, Provost of Pontifex University

Week 5 – 11 November

'Science and Religion: Galileo Revisited'

Dr Nuno Castel-Branco, Research Fellow, All Souls College

Week 6 – 18 November

'Jacques Maritain on Culture, Politics, and Religion in the Modern World'

Professor Margarita Mooney Clayton, Princeton Theological Seminary;
Visiting Fellow at Blackfriars Hall

Week 8 – 2 December

'Where Psychology Meets Ethics:

How Modern Science Can Help Understand Virtue'

Rev Dr Andrew Pinsent, Research Director of the Ian Ramsey Centre
for Science and Religion at the Faculty of Theology and Religion